


COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 12, 2006 (BOS Mtg. 5/2/06)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator 

SUBJECT: Support of Eastern State Hospital

Background

The Board of Supervisors has supported a statewide, state-operated system of mental health care, especially residential facilities, in a number of documents to include the annual Legislative Program. Eastern State Hospital has been a viable and effective health care provider of inpatient mental health services on the peninsula for the past 233 years. They have achieved and maintain accreditation by JCAHO (Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations), and Medicare and Medicaid certification.

Its continued existence as a public institution has been threatened since early in 2005 when Geo Care, Inc., (formerly Atlantic Shores Healthcare, Inc.) approached Virginia legislators about privatizing a state mental health facility. Privatization of public inpatient psychiatric care is known to result in an unstable workforce due to reduced benefit plans, especially critical during these times of nursing and other professional staffing shortages, nationwide. Privatizing any portion of the Virginia public mental health system would be a speculative and experimental venture and, therefore, not appropriate because of the profound potential to adversely affect human lives. The privatization of Eastern State Hospital could jeopardize reinvestment projects and potential projects.

Attached proposed Resolution R06-57 shows the County's support for maintaining Eastern State Hospital as a public institution.

Smith/4111

Attachment

- Proposed Resolution R06-57